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AGRICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF NORTHEAST AND SOUTHWEST CHINA IN 1953

[Summary: Increased crop yields in China were reported for the Northeast in 1953, despite calamities. Achievements were attributed to the mutual aid cooperative movement, improved agricultural techniques, increased use of fertilizer, farming equipment, and disinfectants, and to the development of technical demonstration stations. The Northeast plans to produce 22,300,000 tons of grain in 1954.

Crop yields in the Southwest were also higher. Food crop production was 7.3 percent higher than that of 1952, and industrial crops showed gains in cotton, sugar cane, tobacco, and tea.]

AGRICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF NORTHEAST IN 1953 -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 9 Jan 54

The Northeast achieved agricultural successes in 1953 despite natural calamities both in northern and southern Manchuria. In production per unit of area, average crop yields were 1,245 kung chin [one kung chin equals one kilogram] per hectare. Cotton production was decreased compared with 1952 because of a reduction in the cultivated area, but production per unit of area reached 693 kung chin per hectare, an increase of 16 kung chin over 1952.

Many advances have been gained in the mutual aid cooperative movement. Agricultural production cooperatives generally had better harvest results than ordinary mutual aid teams and independent farmers. State farms have also gained in importance. The Northeast now has 20 experimental farms, 160 demonstration breeding farms, 190 production farms, and 24 mechanized farms. In 1953, the mechanized farms alone produced 90,000 tons of grain for the nation. The grain which was delivered by the P'an-shan Farm to the nation was equal to the amount sold by 100 villages of northern Manchuria.

Also, agricultural techniques were revised. Fields were planted with 10-20 percent more stalks per hectare, and this resulted in an increase of about one million tons in Northeast grain. High production fields, about 1,500,000 hectares, yielded results which averaged 20-30 percent, and in some cases 100-200 percent, better than ordinary fields.

Along with the rapid expansion of the national industries, the supply of farming equipment and fertilizer has increased. In 1952 the Northeast had 600 sets of new-type horse-drawn equipment capable of cultivating an average of 13 hectares per set. By 1953 the amount of horse-drawn equipment had reached 4,600 sets, and an average of 17 hectares per set was attained. The use of this new-type equipment for deep plowing, close planting, etc., has resulted in an average increase of 1,000 shih chin [one shih chin equals .5 kilogram] of wheat per hectare. In 1953 the amount of ammonium sulfate furnished to the farmers of the Northeast was 70,000 tons, an increase of 26,000 tons over 1952. There was also a 100-percent increase in the supply of soybean root nodule seed formula [nodular bacteria?]

In addition, the use of chemical disinfectants increased. Disinfected wheat fields amounted to 40 percent of the total wheat area, an 11 percent increase over 1952. Disinfected millet fields were 27 percent of the total millet area.

Also, technical demonstration stations were further developed. In 1952 there were only 85 in experimental operation; by 1953, 903 were in operation together with 28 semimechanized demonstration stations. In addition there were six machine stations which rented out tractors for cultivation.

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In 1954, the Northeast plans to produce 22,300,000 tons of grain and to distribute 3,000 sets of new-type farm equipment.

SOUTHWEST CROP YIELDS INCREASED IN 1953 -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 18 Jan 54

The Southwest has reported increased yields for both food and industrial crops. According to statistics, Southwest food crop production was 7.8 percent above that of 1952. Industrial crop yields showed the following increases over 1952: cotton, 0.63 percent in production per unit of area; sugar cane, 40 percent; tobacco in Kweichow Province, 59 percent; tea, 8.64 percent. The Tibetan Autonomous Area also fulfilled a planned increase of 4,600 tons of grain.

At the end of September 1953, People's Banks in all areas had already issued agricultural loans amounting to 986.7 billion yuan. Supply and marketing cooperatives furnished production materials which had a total worth of 149 percent over that of 1952. The supply of oilseed cake at the end of November 1953 was already 242.82 percent of the total amount furnished in all of 1952.

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